(ग) क्या जन साधारण की उनकी समस्याओं को हल करने में सहायता देने हेतु सरकार उन्हें कम शुल्क पर सरकारी वकीलों की सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने के बारे में विचार कर रही है; यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) और (ख) हाल ही में मुख्य मंत्रियों और मुख्य न्याय-मूर्तियों की बैठक में ग्रामीण मुकदमों के कम खर्चीले और शीघ्र समाधान को सुनिश्चित करने की दृष्टि से न्यायिक प्रणाली की पुनसंरचना करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया था। इस संबंध में एक ठोस स्कीम अभी बनाई जानी है।

(ग) ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

Remuneration for officials deputed for election duties

3187. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers have been paid remuneration for three days for attending duties in the Delhi State Assembly elections held in November, 1993 whereas the Class IV employees who were also in the team and attended their duties have been paid remuneration for one day only; and

(b) whether Election Commission have received any communication in this regard, if so, whether Government are considering to pay the remuneration for the remaining two days to the Class IV employees also; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) According to the instructions issued by the Election Commission of India, Presiding Officers and Polling Officers are entitled to remuneration for attending training classes, for takjng elections materials etc. Class IV (Group D) employees are not entitled for any remuneration for these duties. However, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and Class IV Staff are entitled for remuneration for poll duty and counting duty.

(b) The Election Commission of India have received some representations which are under its consideration.

Vacancies in High Courts

3188. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any vacancies pending Governmental decision, in various High Courts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) the number of pending cases before each High Court; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to expeditiously liquidate these balances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). Statement-I showing the sanctioned strength, number of Judges in position and number of posts lying vacant in various High Courts of the country is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement-II, (*See* below).

(d) For filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of the country, the process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities is on.

A meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts was convened on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to consider the problem of arrears cases in courts and to find out ways and means

to deal with it as expeditiously as possible. The resolutions adopted in the conference have been forwarded to all the State Govts./UT Adms./High Courts/ Central Ministries for necessary action.

The Administration of Justice has been made a Plan Item with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases.

Statement-I

S. No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength (permanent/ Additional)	No. of Judges in position	No. of posts vacant
1.	Allahabad	70	65	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	28	26	2
3.	Bomaby	54	42	12
4.	Calcutta	46	32	14
5.	Delhi	30	24	6
6.	Gauhati	17	11	6
7.	Gujarat	30	27	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	7	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	9	2
10.	Katnataka	30	25	5
11.	Kerala	24	21	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30	25	5
13.	Madras	28	25	3
14.	Orissa	14	12	2
15.	Patna	36	35	..
16.	Punjab & Haryana	33	26	7
17.	Rajasthan	26	20	6
18.	Sikkim	3	2	1
		518	435	83

Statement-II

Pendency of Cases in the High Court

	High Courts	No. of Cases Pending (As on 30.6.93) (Total of Civil, Criminal, Writs & Miscellaneous)
1.	Allahabad	6,95,880
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,10,158
3.	Bombay	1,88,567
4.	Calcutta	2,26,445

1	2	3
5.	Delhi	1,55,345
6.	Gujarat	1,00,975
7.	Guwahati	23,994
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18,212
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	68,321
10.	Karnataka	1,30,044
11.	Kerala	1,28,765
12.	Madhya Pradesh	82,028
13.	Madras	3,01,191
14.	Orissa	37,223
15.	Patna	79,783
16.	Punjab & Haryana	1,13,807
17.	Rajasthan	1,06,790
18.	Sikkim	74

Non-appointment of Chief Justice from SC|ST communities

3189. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not a single Chief Justice of any High Court belonging to the SC and ST community in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are some very Senior Judges belonging to the SC and ST communities in various High Courts of India eligible to be appointed as Chief Justices; if so, why they have not been elevated as Chief Justices; and

(c) what are the eligibility criteria for Chief Justice of High Courts, and whether SC/ST Judges fulfil that criteria, if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). Appointment of Chief Justice of a High Court is made in terms of Article 217 of the Constitution of India. A copy of the guidelines issued by the Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, relating to appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts is given in the attached Statement, (*See* below). The information about Caste or Community is not asked for at the time of making appointment.

Statement

Pursuant to persistent demand from responsible bodies, the Government have after considering various aspects of the matter and after consulting the Chief Justice of India decided to about a policy of having Chief Justice of all High Courts from outside and to keep in view certain broad guidelines when implementing this policy. These guidelines are as follows—

(i) For purposes of elevations as Chief Justices the inter se seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Courts and, subject to suitability they will be considered for appointment as Chief Justices in other